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## SEES FIRE MENACE IN FACTORIES HERE

Repetition of Triangle Waist Company Disaster Possible, Says Investigator.

### CHIEF DRENNAN DIFFERS

Asserts Drastic Building Laws Now Safeguard Lives of the Workers.

A repetition of the Triangle Waist Company fire in 1911, with the loss of 142 lives, is possible in any one of the congested manufacturing centers, according to Dr. George M. Price, director of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, speaking at a conference on fire prevention between the board and industrial organizations held yesterday at 131 East Seventeenth street.

Dr. Price's assertion was approved by Max Hochman of the Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers Union and by several women speakers, all of whom expressed indignation that no penalty had been imposed on those who had been responsible for loss of life. Fire Commissioner Drennan said last night he emphatically disagreed with Dr. Price's views.

Dr. Price, who with Rudolph P. Miller, former building commissioner and chairman of the Bureau of Standards and Appeals, is making a survey of the buildings in the cloak, suit, dress and waist industries, reported that the fire drills required by law were pretty generally neglected. The drills prevailed in most of the garment industries, he said, but owing to the fact that these industries were often housed in the same buildings with concerns manufacturing other lines of goods, the majority of whom paid no attention to the drills, the efforts of the garment workers would be unavailing in time of peril. William J. Schieffelin, who presided, said: "The conference has been called simply to be helpful and not to criticize public officials. We hope as a result of the report of the committee and the action of the subsequent meeting that there will be enough public interest aroused to prevail in bringing about a better enforcement of the law, as well as a better observation of the law on the part of the workers themselves."

Chief Larkin of the fire prevention bureau said that in the last two fires which resulted in a loss of life the laws and code of regulations had been complied with. The Board of Aldermen, he said, had a new ordinance under consideration which requires that all celluloid manufacturing shall be conducted on a floor which has no other manufacturing concern above it.

"Certainly not," said Fire Commissioner Thomas J. Drennan last night when asked if he thought there was a possibility of a repetition of the Triangle fire. "The building code would not permit a repetition of that fire. Such a thing would be impossible. As I remember it, the reason for the great loss of life was that all the doors opened inward. Such doors are no longer allowed. As for the efficacy of the present code—the average real estate man in New York city feels that it is altogether too drastic as it is."

"Concerning the inspection of buildings, we now have 700 firemen going out each day from the various stations to see that the regulations are complied with. If there are specific instances where the regulations are being violated we shall be very glad to have them brought to our attention."

### NEW PASTOR CALLED.

The Rev. J. L. Miller Will Fill Hanson Place M. E. Pulpit.

The Rev. J. Lane Miller, pastor of the Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church of Johnstown, Pa., has been called to the pulpit of the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church in Brooklyn and will take up his new work January 1. The Brooklyn pulpit has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev. Harry Knight Miller two months ago to go into business.

The new pastor will receive \$5,000 a year and the use of an apartment. Mr. Miller is 33 years old and is a graduate of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; New York University and Drew Theological Seminary.

### OMAHA BANK CLOSED.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 4.—The American State Bank of Omaha, capitalized at \$200,000, was closed today by J. E. Hart, secretary of the State Department of Trade and Commerce. Mr. Hart issued a statement saying the bank's capital was "hopelessly dissipated." The bank had deposits of \$1,100,000, loans of \$1,000,000 and \$200,000 worth of "bad paper," according to Mr. Hart. Depositors will be paid from a State guaranty fund.

## Aldermen Adopt Largest Budget of Any City Ever

THE Board of Aldermen yesterday adopted the city budget for 1923, which makes it final. The total amount is \$353,350,975.67, which is the largest sum any city ever spent on itself in one year in history. The Aldermen voted 44 to 1.

Alderman Bruce M. Falconer (Rep.) cast the only negative vote. Alderman Jacob W. Friedman (Rep.), minority leader, said the budget was made up largely of camouflage and manipulation. Falconer said the increase over 1921 was not \$2,000,000, as appears from the figures, but really \$23,000,000, "because there is a \$21,000,000 saving in debt service."

## SHOESTRING BRINGS \$10,000,000 GROSS

Court Opinion Relates Story of \$1,000 'War Baby' That Went Under.

How "war babies" did a \$10,000,000 business on a \$1,000 investment and then collapsed after the armistice was described by Supreme Court Justice Philip J. McCook yesterday. He dismissed the complaint in an accounting suit brought by Ralph A. Corley against Young, Corley & Dolan, Inc., the Asia Engineering Corporation and others.

In his opinion Justice McCook related that the Young, Corley & Dolan corporation was launched in 1915 with but \$1,000, and the extensive sales experience of the three partners in Russia and the Far East as principal assets. "They came together," Justice McCook found, "moved by their knowledge of the peculiar world situation which made it possible for any American who could buy here to sell abroad at a profit. There was no difficulty in selling; the trouble was to find goods to sell. The witnesses were unanimous that anything from a corker to a tractor, if purchasable, could be disposed of at a good price."

"By the end of 1917 this corporation, which had begun operations on a shoestring two years before, did a gross business of \$10,000,000. However, it proved to be a case of easy come easy go. The armistice ended its reason for existence. By March, 1919, as a result of business readjustments, it was in grave difficulties. When trouble came it was a case of each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. The complaint and the counterclaims are respectively dismissed."

Corley organized the corporation, together with David J. Dolan and Lindsay R. Williams, who sold out his interest upon entering the army, but subsequently bought himself back into it again.

### WIDOW OBTAINS ORDER FOR SCULPTOR'S GOODS

Mme. de Festetics Says Young Woman Has Effects.

Elise H. de Festetics of 46 West Ninety-second street, widow of Gynius de Festetics, sculptor, yesterday was granted an order by Surrogate Cobalan against Madelyn Nichols of 46 East Forty-ninth street. The order directed Miss Nichols to show cause why she should not surrender to the sculptor's widow his studio effects, jewelry, wearing apparel, and objects d'art.

Mme. de Festetics asked the order as administratrix of the estate to facilitate an inventory. She asserted the belongings were all in the sculptor's possession at his studio, 69 West Forty-sixth street, at the time of his death. The petition went on to say that Madelyn Nichols had the key and unobstructed access to the studio, and that demand for the effects had been refused.

### MOTHER SEEKING LOST SON IS SWINDLE VICTIM

Police Arrest Suspected Writer of Plea for Money.

Ralph Wells, 25 years old, a nurse, of 160 West 166th street, was arrested last night charged with using the mails to defraud.

The complaint is Mrs. Nellie Barnes of Webb city, Mo., who has been searching for her son, who disappeared two years ago. She advertised in the newspapers for information of the son's whereabouts. The police say that on November 12 she received a letter, purporting to be from her son, informing her that he was ill in New York and asking her to send \$75 to pay his expenses and his transportation home. The letter, the police allege, told her to send the money to "Dr. R. S. Wells."

The police charge that Wells wrote the letter.

## CHRISTMAS CLOSING OF MAIL IS URGED

New York Post Office Men Want to Spend Holiday With Their Families.

A campaign to close the post offices on Christmas Day in order to give the employees the day at home with their families and allow them time to attend religious services will be inaugurated if the provisions of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Holy Name Society of the New York Post Office are carried out. There are about 3,000 members in this branch of the society.

Among other things the resolution called attention to the fact that the slogan "Mail Your Christmas Presents Early" has lost its effect on the public and ought to be replaced with one more efficacious, such as "Mail Your Presents a Week Before Christmas and Give Postal Workers the Day with Their Families." If this were done the hope is that in time it would be possible to hang in the lobbies of the post offices signs indicating that the offices would be closed on Christmas Day.

It appears that a part of the public mail their presents as late as 12 midnight of the 24th, and in order to prevent congestion it is necessary for the postal workers to come down on Christmas Day and work. This has resulted in many of the mail workers annually being deprived of seeing their children set up on Christmas morning and enjoying their presents and of spending the "holiday" at home. Moreover, the children of these workers have had to forego the pleasure of having their fathers at home on the most important and impressive holiday of the year.

### FORGOT POLICE JOB IN HASTE TO WED

Patrolman Explains Why He Quit Post.

Patrolman Charles J. Hohman of 425 Melrose street, Brooklyn, attached to the Richmond Hill precinct, was before Deputy Commissioner John Daly in Brooklyn yesterday, charged with being absent from his post on October 31 for two hours. The policeman said that was right, he was absent, but— "I met my sweetheart a few minutes after I went on post, and I proposed to her. She said she would marry me, and I forgot all about the police force and the city and everything but her. We went down to Borough Hall to get a marriage license before she could change her mind."

The policeman's story was corroborated by his wife, who was Miss Madeline Hahn of 43 Melrose street, Brooklyn, and the Commissioner said he would reserve decision until he could take the excuse up with Commissioner Enright.

Joseph Robertson, a broker, of 500 Broadway, in Traffic Court yesterday got a suspended sentence for speeding on a similar excuse. He said that he was on his way to Albany to get married, and was so excited over the prospect that he unthinkingly put his foot on the gas. Magistrate Weil said it was the best excuse he had ever heard, and suspended sentence.

### WOMAN FOUND DEAD; FIVE MEN ARRESTED

Prisoners Held Pending Autopsy for Drug.

Mrs. Jennie Mazerk, a scrub woman of 618 East Thirteenth street, was found dead yesterday afternoon in the apartment of Vincent Garnicka at 620 East Thirteenth street, and the Medical Examiner ordered the body removed to the morgue for an autopsy. It is believed a drug caused her death.

Garnicka told the police that he and four other men were drinking in his place yesterday morning and when they saw Mrs. Mazerk in her yard chopping wood asked her to have a drink. She entered the flat and drank and then went to sleep and never awakened. Garnicka and his companions were arrested and are being held pending the autopsy.

### HOME TALENT AT SING SING.

The prisoners at Sing Sing gave the first of five performances of the musical comedy "Honey Girl" in the prison auditorium Monday night, convicts playing all of the roles. The first performance was for prisoners only, but the public was admitted last night, as it will be to all subsequent performances.

### 20 YEARS FOR BLIND SLAYER.

Mike Pulikiewicz, a blind beggar, convicted of murder in the second degree, was sentenced to from twenty years to life imprisonment by Judge McLaughlin in Brooklyn yesterday for killing his common law wife, Mary Neckydowlit, in Brownsville last July. As he was being led from the court room, the blind man struck wildly about him, but was speedily subdued.

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